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MEDIA RELEASE

NAMIBIA'S DIGITAL MOMENTUM ACCELERATES AS BROADBAND GROWS, CYBER RESILIENCE IMPROVES IN Q1 2026

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The Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia (CRAN) has released its Quarterly Statistics Bulletin for January to March 2026, revealing a communications sector that continues to expand, modernise and strengthen its digital resilience. The latest figures point to sustained broadband growth, improved cyber security indicators, increased infrastructure investment and broader access to essential communication services across Namibia.

Fixed broadband subscriptions grew by 5% in the first quarter of 2026, increasing from 133,255 subscriptions in the previous quarter to 139,584. Fibre services remained the strongest growth driver, recording a 10% increase as demand for faster, more reliable internet connectivity continued to rise across the country.

Although active SIM card subscriptions declined marginally by 2%, from 2,788 million to 2,746 million, mobile broadband usage remained strong, with 64% of active SIM cards accessing internet services during the quarter.

Mobile internet consumption also maintained its upward trajectory, with total mobile data usage increasing by 6% compared to the previous quarter. Social media platforms remained among the main drivers of data consumption, led by TikTok with a 7% increase, followed by Facebook and YouTube, which each grew by 5%.

Mobile voice traffic remained relatively stable during the quarter, while SMS volumes increased significantly by 14%, underscoring the continued relevance of messaging services alongside data-based communication platforms.

Namibia also recorded encouraging progress in cyber security. Cyber threat events declined by 47%, while reported and detected cyber vulnerabilities decreased by 31% during the first quarter of 2026. These improvements reflect

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Executive: Governance, Risk & Compliance Management: Mr. Tanswell Davies

continued efforts to strengthen cyber resilience, enhance awareness, and improve response mechanisms across the digital ecosystem.

Telecommunications sector investment doubled during the reporting period, reaching N$411 million. This growth was largely driven by network expansion, infrastructure upgrades and Universal Service Fund (USF) initiatives aimed at extending connectivity to underserved and rural communities.

According to Mr. Mufaro Nesongano, Executive: Communication and Consumer Relations at CRAN, "*The latest statistics show that Namibia's communications sector remains a key enabler of digital transformation. Growth in broadband connectivity, sustained mobile data demand and increased infrastructure investment demonstrate a sector that is adapting to the needs of consumers, businesses and communities.*"

The broadcasting sector recorded mixed performance. Pay-Tv subscriptions increased by 2%, driven mainly by growth in satellite television services. However, total broadcasting revenue declined by 7%, while advertising revenue decreased by 18% compared to the previous quarter.

The postal sector also registered positive developments, with nine (9) new post offices established during the quarter, all located in rural areas. As a result, 84% of Namibia's postal establishments are now situated in rural communities, further strengthening universal postal service access across the country.

"*The expansion of postal services into rural communities reflects CRAN's broader commitment to inclusive access. As Namibia's digital economy evolves, it remains critical that connectivity, cyber resilience and essential communication services reach all communities, including those in underserved areas,*" Mr. Nesongano added.

CRAN remains committed to fostering a secure, innovative, and inclusive communications sector that supports national development and advances Namibia's digital future.

The full Quarterly Statistics Bulletin is available for download on the CRAN website: www.cran.na.

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